Three Thousand Generations of Native Americans in Rocky Mountain National Park: the emerging story of the park's natural and cultural landscapes since the last Ice Age

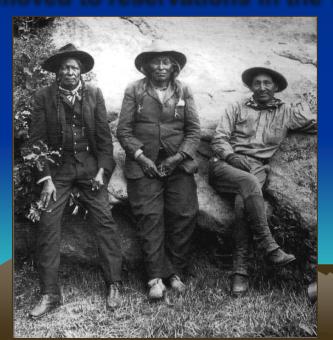
Bob Brunswig, Ph.D.
Department of Anthropology
University of Northern Colorado
Greeley, Colorado

Centennial Science Behind the Scenery Rocky Mountain National Park

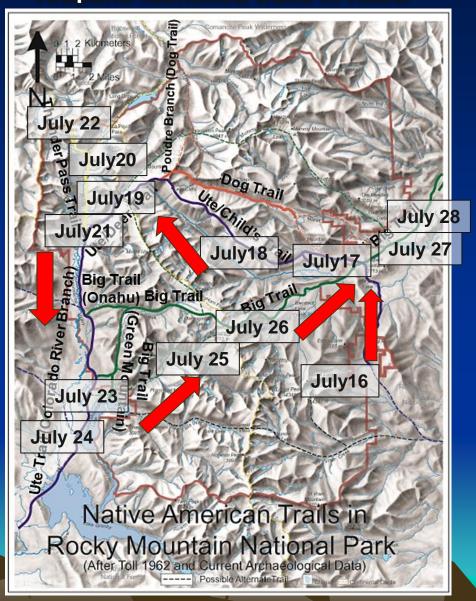
July 30, 2015.

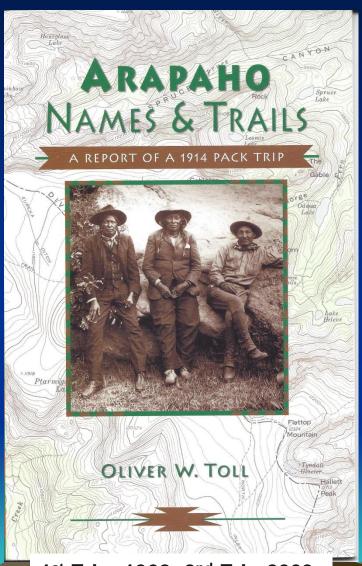
Earliest Native American Ethnohistory of the Park: the 1914 Arapaho Pack Trip and its Preamble to RMNP

- Trip (July 16-28, 1914) arranged by the Colorado Mountain Club to support congressional legislation (Native American Place-Names) to create Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Arapaho informants: Sherman Sage (63) and Gun Griswold (73) from the Arapaho & Crow Wind River Reservation who visited the park to hunt with their families from the 1850s through 1870s.
- Irony of the trip: the Park was Ute traditional land for over a thousand years before the Ute were removed to reservations in the 1870s.



The Pack Trip route and Arapaho-identified trails in RMNP





1st Edn: 1962; 2nd Edn:2003



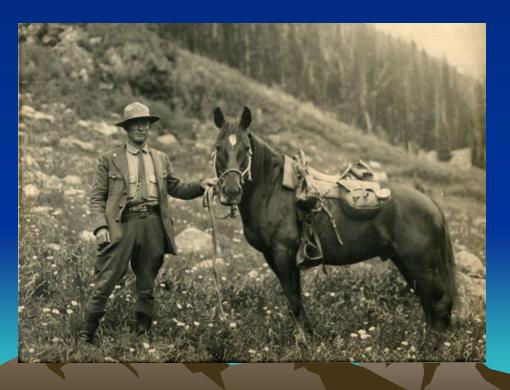
Leaving from near Longs Peak Inn-July 17, 1914

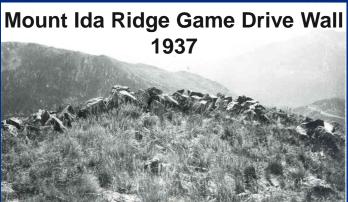


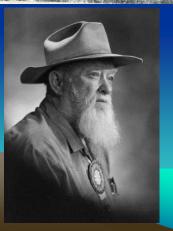


Jacob (Jack) Clifford Moomaw-Rocky Mountain National Park Ranger (1892-1974)

- WW I Veteran, Seasonal Park employee-1920-1923
- Park Ranger-1923 to 1945
- Amateur artifact ("arrow-head") collector
- First identified tundra game drives in the park in 1930s
- Few of his park-collected artifacts ended up in Park archives, later the RMNP Museum







Early Pioneer Archaeologists in Rocky Mountain National Park

Elizabeth Yelm (DU MA Thesis) 1933 and 1934

- RMNP Museum artifact study
 visited some sites guided by Jack Moomaw
- Assisted by local artifact collectors
- Identified 40 sites inside RMNP boundaries Yelm sites

Wil Husted (CU MA Thesis) 1960 and 1961

- NPS partial funding
- Actual site survey, most at high altitude
- 20 sites documented, some were earlier
 Yelm sites

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK-EASTERN FOOTHILL DISTRICTS

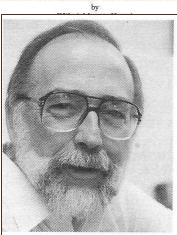
Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTERS OF ARTS

of the University of Denver

by
MARY ELIZABETH YELM
A.B., University of Denver 1933

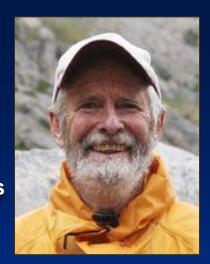
Denver, Colorado 1935 A PROPOSED ARCHEOLOGICAL CHRONOLOGY FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BASED ON PROJECTILE POINTS AND POTTERY

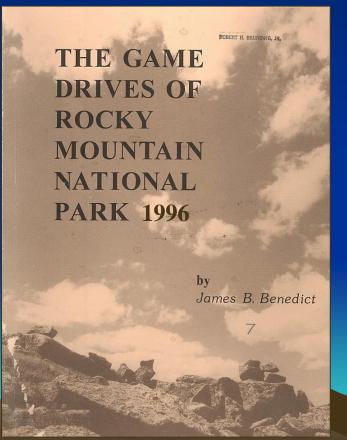


fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree Master of Arts Department of Anthropology 1962

Dr. Jim Benedict Front Range Mountain Geology-Archaeology Research (1963 to 2009)

- Est. Center for Mountain Archaeology in 1970
- Main work in Indian Peaks area to south
- Geology and archaeology studies in RMNP from mid-1980s through 2009





2002

Southwestern Lone 68(1): 23-37

A NEWLY DISCOVERED GAME-DRIVE SYSTEM IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK, NORTH-CENTRAL COLORADO

JAMES B. BENEDICT

The Ute Trail game drive (5LR10260) is above timberline near the east end of Trail Ridge, in Rocky Mountain National Park. Two of the site's three rudimentary cairn lines were constructed to help drive ungulates (probably elk) from a valley-floor grazing area to a ridgecrest col. As the animals emerged from the col, they entered a corral-like enclosure formed of large, in-situ boulders and a transverse cairn line. Here bunters were stationed in ambush. Graniteweathering data indicate that the cairn lines and a nearby stone semicircle are prebistoric, but do not provide numerical ages. Absence of broken projectile points, butchering tools, and waste flakes suggests that the hunt was unsuccessful. The site is interpreted as an "expedient drive system" (hastily constructed to take advantage of a chance encounter with game), rather than a "destination drive system" (regularly visited, maintained, and improved as part of a group's seasonal rounds). The Inuit who traveled with Diamond Jenness on Victoria Island in August, 1915, built similar structures, and used them for impromptu caribou drives, on nine separate occasions during a 22-day period. Expedient drive systems are less common in the Front Range than might be expected from Jenness's ethnographic data. Slipshod construction and damage by periglacial processes may help account for their underrepresentation in the archaeological record.

Prehistoric hunters at high altitude in the Colorado Front Range used stone drift fences and topographic barriers to drive ungulates to locations where they could be ambushed from close range. Designed to help compensate for the limitations of primitive weaponry, the technique remained virtually unchanged from the Late Paleoindian period (Benedict 2000) until the final decades of the seventeenth century, when acquisition of the horse revolutionized hunting strategies in Colorado (Benedict 1992). One of the best-known and most-accessible game-drive systems in the Front Range is site 5LR15, a funnel-shaped array of rock walls and stone-rimmed blinds near the east end of Trail Ridge, in Rocky Mountain National Park (Figure 1). The site has been known to the public for more than half a century (Husted 1963; Moomaw 1954). Many of its rock walls and blinds are clearly defined and easily recognized. Details of its operation, history of construction, and associated stone artifacts are given in Benedict (1996).

A second stone game-drive system, much less conspicuous, is half a kilometer to the southwest (Figure 1), at an altitude of 3525-3550 m. The

James B. Benedict ■ Center for Mountain Archeology, 8297 Overland Road,



SOUTHWESTERN LORE

Official Publication, The Colorado Archaeological Society, Vol. 53, No.3, September 1987

A FASTING BED AND GAME DRIVE SITE ON THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE IN THE COLORADO FRONT RANGE

JAMES B. BENEDICT Center for Mountain Archeology

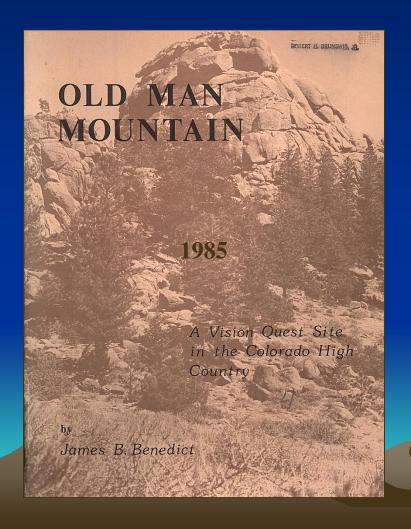
ludy Rosen (National Park Service), Mario Archuleta (National Park Service), Mary Painter (Colorado State University), Fran Enright (Evergreen High School), and Audrey Benedict (Cloud Ridge Naturalists)

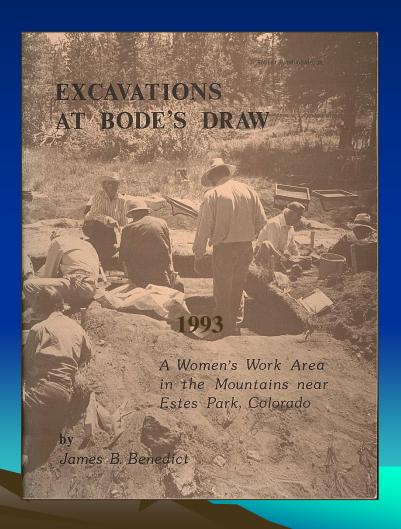
INTRODUCTION

In May 1986, Mr. John Murray (Department of English, University of Denver) contacted Rocky Mountain National Park headquarters to report a U-shaped rock-wall structure that he had found on the Continental Divide between Milner Pass and Mount Ida. We investigated the site that summer, preparing a theodolite map, making a plan drawing of the rock enclosure, and collecting surface artifacts. Although the U-shaped enclosure proved to be of recent origin, other structures at the site are prehistoric. In this paper we report on both sets of structures, interpret their probable functions, and describe the stone tools found in their vicinity.

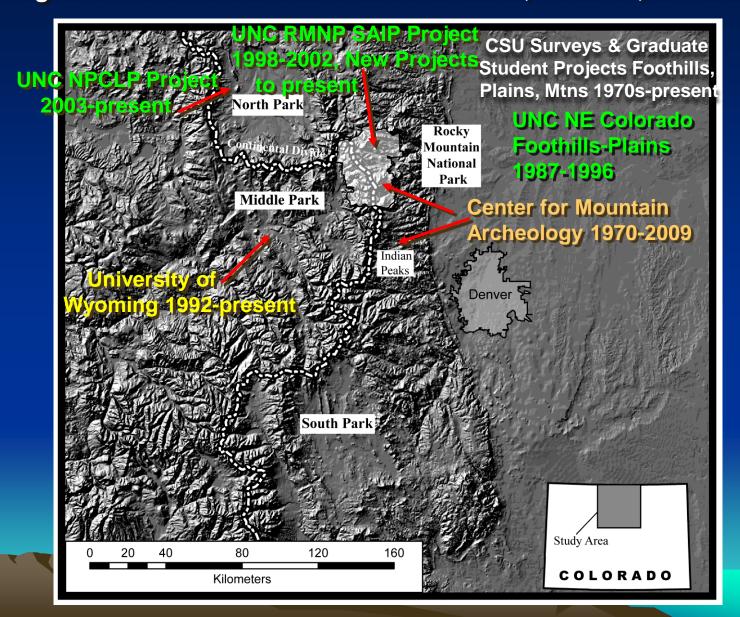
The site (Fig. 1) is on a rounded knoll atop the Continental Divide 1.9 km southeast of Milner Pass, in Rocky Mountain National Park, northcentral Colorado. Part of the site (5GA1095) is in Grand County, and the remainder (5LR1089) in Larimer County. Views from the knoll are spectacular. To the northeast, the high peaks of the Mummy Range form a scenic backdrop to Trail Ridge. Specimen Mountain, an important bighorn sheep lambing area and salt lick, is to the north-northwest. Mount Richthofen and the Cloud Peaks of the Never Summer Mountains (Mounts Cirrus, Cumulus, Nimbus, and Stratus) form the western skyline

- Two of Jim's important projects just outside park boundaries were Old Man Mountain (owned by UNC) and Bode's Draw
- His Old Man Mountain work on a vision quest site paved the way for UNC's Sacred Landscapes Project (2000-present)





1970 to Present: 45 Years of Continuous Archaeological Field Research Programs in the Northern Colorado Mountains, Foothills, & Plains



UNC/Rocky Mountain National Park Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program (SAIP)-1998 to 2002 with smaller specialized field projects-2002-present

- 30,000 acres surveyed
- 429 new prehistoric and 626 historic sites recorded
- relocated, re-surveyed and re-recorded earlier Yelm-Husted-Benedict identified sites
- Geographic Information System computer mapping of Park archaeological sites
- Paleoenvironment-paleoclimate research to 11,000 years ago
- Spiritual landscapes research involving Native American elders

Prehistoric, Protohistoric, and Early Historic Native American Archeology of Rocky Mountain National Park: Volume 1-Final Report of Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program Investigations by the University of Northern Colorado (1998-2002)

> Robert H. Brunswig, Ph.D. Anthropology Program School of Social Sciences University of Northern Colorado Greeley, Colorado

> > 2005

Prepared for the: National Park Service Rocky Mountain National Park Intermountain Region Department of the Interior

Cooperative Agreement: 1443-CA-1248-007 Project Number: ROMO-R98-0804

THE HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

William B. Butler, Ph.D. Park Archeologist

2005

National Park Service Rocky Mountain National Park Intermountain Region Department of the Interior

Native American Lives and Sacred Landscapes in Rocky Mountain National Park

Robert H. Brunswig, Ph.D. Anthropology Program

David Diggs, Ph.D. Geography Program

School of Social Sciences University of Northern Colorado Greeley, Colorado

Christine Chady Montgomery, B.A.
Department of Anthropology
University of Wyoming
Laramic, Wyoming

2009

Prepared Under:

Cooperative Agreement: 1443-CA-1248-007

MODELING PALEOENVIRONMENTAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES OF ANCIENT GAME DRIVE SYSTEMS IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK, NORTH CENTRAL COLORADO

James P. Doerner, Ph.D. and Robert H. Brunswig, Ph.D.

Departments of Geography and Anthropology University of Northern Colorado Greeley, Colorado

2008

Cooperative Agreement Number CA 1268-1-9012 Project Number: ROMO-R00-0032, UNC-12

Fourteen Years of Archaeological Fieldwork (1998-2012)









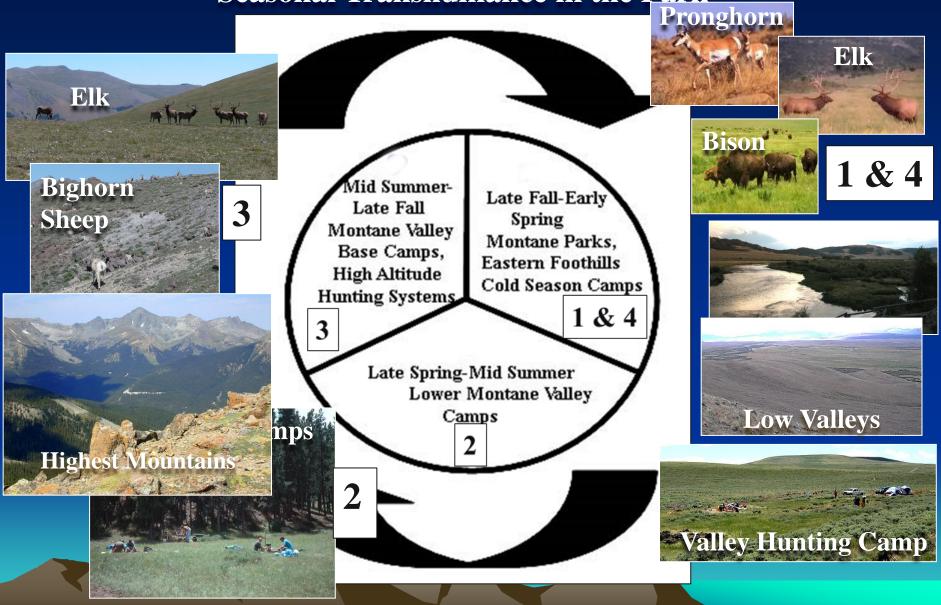
11,300 Years of Prehistoric to Early Historic Native American Occupations In Rocky Mountain National Park Site (defined by Diagnostic Projectile [spear & arrow]) Point Types and Radiocarbon-dated Hearth Charcoal)

11,300 Years Ago

Southern Rocky Mountain Cultural Periods	Conventional Radiocarbon-Date Range	Calendar-Age (Calibrated Age) Range
Early Paleoindian Period Cultures: Clovis; Folsom; Goshen	Clovis-11,300-10,900 BP; Goshen-10,450-10,153 BP; Folsom-10,950-10,250 BP	Clovis-13,185-12,851 BP; Goshen-12,500-11,800 BP; Folsom-12,871-12,007 BP
Middle Paleoindian Period Culture: Agate Basin	Agate Basin-10,430-9,350 BP	12,200-10,590 BP
Late Paleoindian Period Cultures: Cody Complex, James Allen-Frederick, Mountain Paleoindian	9,400-7,700 BP	10,689-7,835 BP
Early Archaic Period	7,500-5000 BP	8,287-5,738 BP
Middle Archaic Period	5,000-3,000 BP	5,738-3,165 BP
Late Archaic Period	3,000-1,900 BP	3,165-1,735 BP
Early Late Prehistoric Period: Early Ceramic/Plains Woodland Culture	1,900-900 BP	1,735-856 BP
Late Late Prehistoric Period: Middle & Late Ceramic Periods	900-650 BP	856-642 BP
Terminal Late Prehistoric-Protohistoric- Early Historic Periods	650-85 BP	642-85 BP

150 Years Ago

10,000+ Years of Native American Hunter and Game Animal Seasonal Transhumance in the Park_____

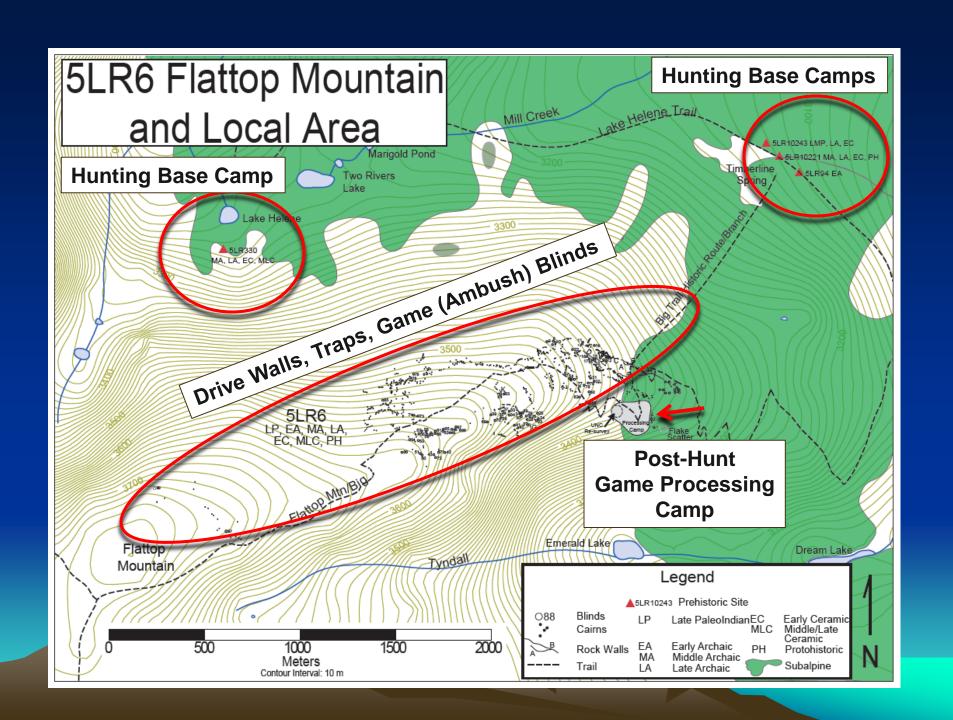


Annual Transhumance between Interior Basin Valley Spring-Early Summer/Late Summer-Fall Camps/Winter Camps to High Mountain Hunting Territories (Rocky Mountain National Park)





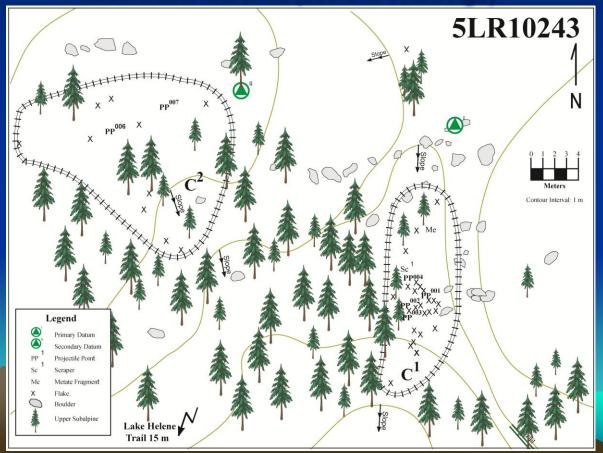
- The Flattop Mountain Game Drive (5LR6) is one of the largest and most complex prehistoric sites in the Park.
- It was first identified by Jack Moomaw and Elizabeth Yelm (1930s) and later by Wil Husted (1961), then mapped in detail using aerial photos by Jim Benedict in 1992.
- UNC later did surveys and test excavations.



5LR10243 Hunting Base Camp

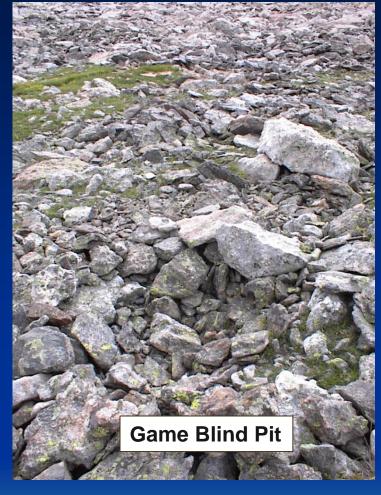
Five Cultural Period Occupations based on Evidence of Six Projectile Points and a Hearth Radiocarbon Date:

Late Paleoindian Period (10,689-7,835 Years Ago)
Early Archaic Period (7,416-5,738Years Ago)
Late Archaic Period (3,165-1,735 Years Ago)
Early Ceramic Period (1,735-856 Years Ago)
Middle/Late Ceramic (856-642 Years Ago)













Late Paleoindian Projectile Points Cody (left)-9,500-8,200 Years Ago James Allen-Frederick (right) 9,350-7,900 Years Ago

Sacred Landscapes Research in the Park and Beyond

- University of Northern Colorado Sacred Landscapes Project-2001 to present
- RMNP and neighboring North Park/Middle Park Valleys
- Identifying ritual stone features (archaeology), study of and consultations on Native American religious beliefs and practices, and geographic analysis of ritual place locations on Southern Rocky Mountain landscapes





Consultation visits with Northern Ute Elder Clifford Duncan & Tribal Heritage Specialist Betsy Chapoose



Ritual Offering Shrine/Altar



Eagle's Head Effigy (North Park)



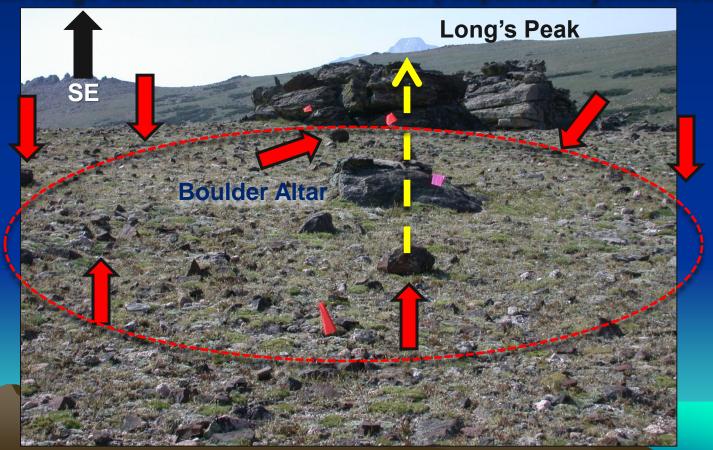
Ritual/Astronomical Rock Alignments (North Park)

Origins of the Park's Spiritual Sites

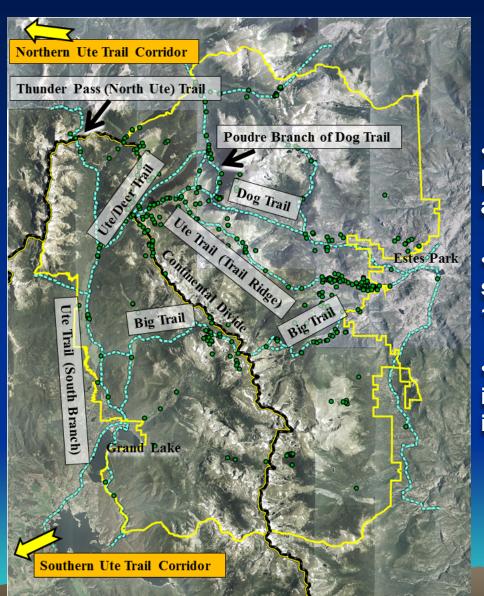
- Studies of identified spiritual (sacred) sites and ritual features by UNC researchers are mostly attributed to ancestral Utes.
- Archaeological excavations by UNC in nearby North Park valley and radiocarbon dates on prehistoric Ute pottery and hunting camp charcoal show Utes were in the park and region at least a 1,000 years ago.
- A few even more ancient sacred rock features may be older than the arrival of the Utes a 1,000 years ago.

• A few rock features such as medicine wheels, some crescent wall vision quests, and rock-ringed dance circles represent late-arriving (ca. AD 1780-1820) Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Sioux.

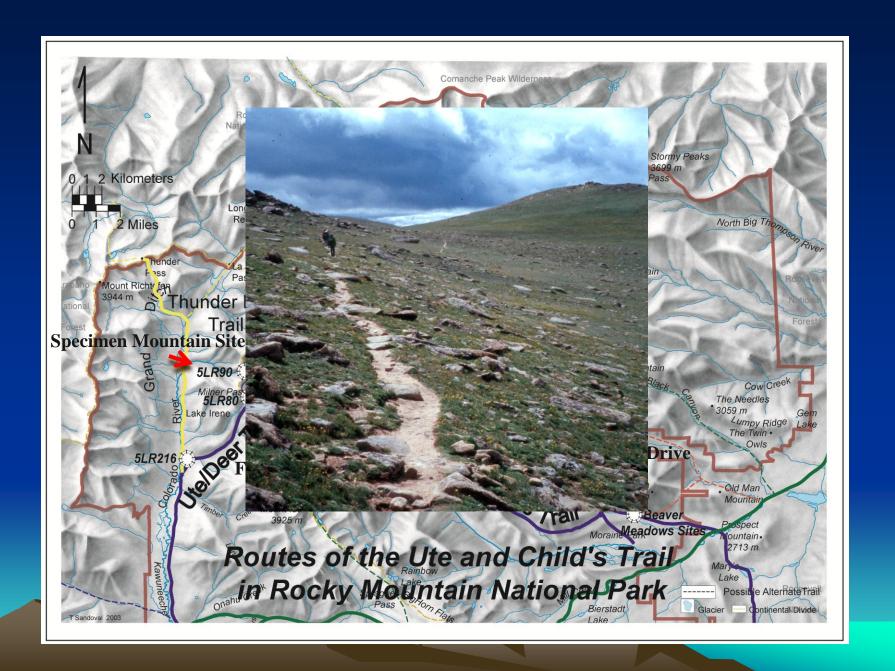
Trail Ridge Game Drive Medicine Wheel (Arapaho/Cheyenne/Sioux)

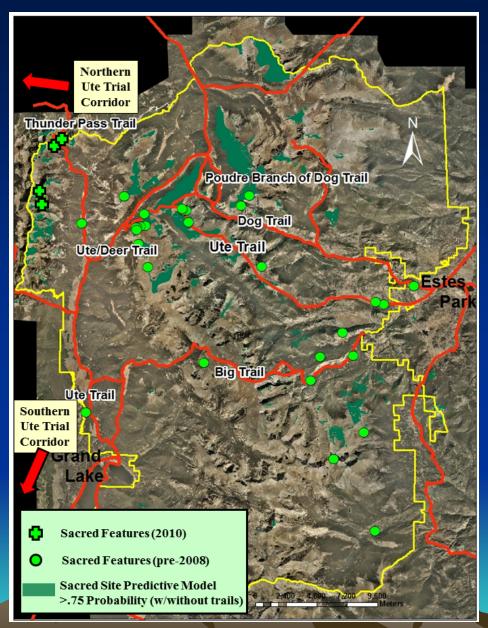


New Insights into Native American Trails and Park Prehistory



- Native American prehistoric & early historic sites were found heavily clustered along 1914 Pack Trip identified trails
- All the trails are ancient, most close to sites with projectile points dating 10,000 years or earlier
- The Ute Trail has Clovis points along its highest (Trail Ridge) section dating it to over 11,000 years.





- The park's Native American trails are connected to many sacred ritual sites
- A Ute elder remarked that the park's Native trails channeled spiritual energy across its mountains and valleys, connecting spiritually powerful natural landmarks and ritual sites

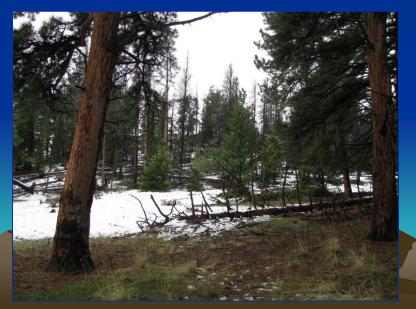
Revisiting & re-documenting other 1914 Arapaho Pack Trip Locations

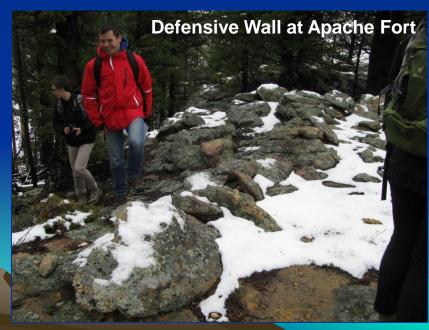
Apache Raid on Arapaho in 1855

Apache Fort Battle Site in Beaver Meadows









Appreciation for Funding and Agency/Institutional Support for UNC's Park Research from 1998-2014

Rocky Mountain National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



ROCKY MOUNTAINS
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COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT

UNC Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP)



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THANK-YOU!

PRESENTATIONS POSTED:

http://www.nps.gov/rlc/continentaldivide/index .htm